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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,925	05/09/2006	Shinji Ueda	L9289.06155	3854

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WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

HUR, ECE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2109

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/20/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/578,925

Applicant(s)

UEDA ET AL.

Examiner

ECE HUR

Art Unit

2109

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05/06/2006.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to application and IDS filed on May 09, 2006 in which claims 1 to 2 are presented for examination. This application is a new PCT National Stage application of PCT/JP2004/015788 that was filed on October 25, 2004. Applicant is claiming priority for the foreign application Japan 2003-372848 filed on October 31, 2003.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-2 are pending in the case. Claim 1 is the independent claim. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Information Disclosure Statement Acknowledgement

The information disclosure statement filed on May 9, 2006 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609. It has been placed in the application file, the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

Priority Acknowledgement

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). Receipt is acknowledged of certified copy of Japanese Application No.2003-372848, filed on October 31, 2003 submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Abstract Objection

Abstract is being objected to because of the following informalities:

The abstract contains more than 150 words, the abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details. The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc. See 37 CFR 1.72(b) and MPEP § 608.01(b). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

Art Unit: 2109

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi, JP2003099180 in view of Toru, JP10307662.

Regarding Claim 1, Takashi discloses the claimed aspect of a mobile terminal apparatus with an input section where a plurality of numeric keys combining a plurality of character keys are arranged in FIG. 3. (Takashi, Page 16, FIG. 3). Takashi achieves the claimed aspect of candidate character storage section, wherein a key depression is performed and the code selected as a candidate is restored to the code previously selected as the candidate. Furthermore, Takashi achieves the aspect of a timer section wherein a key depressing state is measured for a prescribed time. Additionally, Takashi achieves the claimed aspect of an input character determination section that determines whether or not the predetermined time passed after the character was input, wherein the key non-depressing state is continued in the prescribed time after the key depression is performed, the code as the candidate is decided as input. (See Takashi, Abstract). Takashi does not teach the aspect of voice output section. However, Toru achieves the claimed aspect in JP10307662, wherein a user presses a push button for the desired character to be inputted and the depression state is detected by a PB signal receiving means 502 and an input information decision means 503 discriminates the

Art Unit: 2109

character that the user has inputted and a voice output means 504 inputs a voice signal of the decided character to the PB telephone set 100, so that the character is voiced through a speaker 102. (Toru, See Abstract). It would be obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Takashi's invention with Toru's voice output feature to voice output the character code if the user does enter another character code after a predetermined time. The motivation to combine would be to enable the users to input a character code without an error.

Regarding Claim 2, most of the limitations have been met in Claim 1. See Claim 1 for details. Takashi achieves the aspect of input determination, wherein the candidate key code is decided as input. Applicant should duly note that determining the key is an obvious variation of determining the key code at the time of the invention. Takashi does not teach the claimed aspect of outputting voice. However, Toru achieves the claimed aspect in JP10307662 to output voice when a user presses a push button for the desired character to be inputted and the depression state is detected by a push button signal receiving means 502 and an input information decision means 503 discriminates the character that the user has inputted and a voice output means 504 inputs a voice signal of the decided character to the PB telephone set 100, so that the character is voiced through a speaker 102. (Toru, See Abstract). Applicant should duly note that outputting voice when the numeric key has changed without considering the predetermined time is an obvious variation at the time of the invention. It would be obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Takashi's

Art Unit: 2109

invention with Toru's voice output feature to voice output the last character entered by the previous key. The motivation to combine would be to enable the users to input a character using a numeric key that contains multiple characters without an error and warn the user if they have start to enter characters on a different numeric key.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- 1) Yamane, Mitoku, US 20060061556 A1, 03/23/2006, "Electronic apparatus".
- 2) Okayasu, Akihito, US 20040022047 A1, 02/05/2004, "Key input device".
- 3) Kang, Yun Gyu et al., US 20020167545 A1, 11/14/2002, "Method and apparatus for assisting data input to a portable information terminal".
- 4) Park; Woong-Gyu, US 20060129402 A1, 06/15/2006, "Method for reading input character data to output a voice sound in real time in a portable terminal".
- 5) Ide, Kenichi, US 20070146315 A1, 06/28/2007, "Key input device and key input method thereof". Refers to KOKAI, PN 2650409, "assigning plurality of codes to one key".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ECE HUR whose telephone number is 571 270-1972. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM.


Art Unit: 2109

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, FRANTZ COBY can be reached on (571) 272-4017. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ece Hur
E.H./e.h.

July 12, 2007


FRANTZ COBY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER